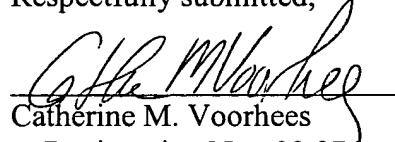


REMARKS

The Preliminary Amendment eliminates multiple claim dependency and deletes the reference numbers in the claims. Accordingly claims 1-27 are pending in the application. An Action on the merits is requested at the earliest opportunity.

Dated: January 25, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine M. Voorhees

Registration No.: 33,074
VENABLE LLP
P.O. Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998
(202) 344-4000
(202) 344-8300 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant

CMV/elw
::ODMA\PCDOCS\DC2DOCS1\716908\1